

Amendments to the Claims

1.-9. (canceled)

10-14. (canceled)

15-19. (canceled)

20.-25. (canceled)

26.-30. (canceled)

31-33. (canceled)

Please add the following claims:

34. (new) A network termination unit, comprising:

a port to connect the unit to a cable network;

a detector to detect received signals from a user and to determine when the received signals include a pause signal;

a timer to time a pause interval initiated at reception of the pause signal;

a source of alternative content, wherein the alternative content is selected from the group comprising: music, advertisements, movie trailers, video on demand, and recorded programs; and

a controller to:

control access to content;

insert an indicator describing the content in packets containing the content; and

provide alternative content to the viewer when the pause interval exceeds a predetermined time period.

35. (new) The network termination unit as claimed in claim 34, wherein the network termination unit comprises one of a digital video recorder or a cable modem.

36. (new) The network termination unit as claimed in claim 34, wherein the controller comprises one of a processor or a microcontroller.
37. (new) The network termination unit as claimed in claim 34, wherein the controller and timer are provided by a central processing unit.
38. (new) The network termination unit as claimed in claim 34, wherein the source of alternative content comprises one of a memory located in the network termination unit or a connection to a remote server on the cable network.
39. (new) The network termination unit as claimed in claim 34, wherein a selection of the source of alternative content is programmable by the user.
40. (new) The network termination unit as claimed in claim 34, the controller to provide alternative content further to provide alternative content based upon one of user preferences, a predetermined selection, and the content being viewed as indicated by the indicators.
41. (new) A network termination unit, comprising:
- a means for connecting the unit to a cable network;
 - a means for detecting received signals from a user and to determine when the received signals include a pause signal;
 - a means for timing a pause interval initiated at reception of the pause signal;
 - a means for providing alternative content, wherein the alternative content is selected from the group comprising: music, advertisements, movie trailers, video on demand, and recorded programs; and
 - a means for:
 - controlling access to content;
 - inserting an indicator describing the content in packets containing the content; and

providing alternative content to the viewer when the pause interval exceeds a predetermined time period.

42. (new) The network termination unit as claimed in claim 41, wherein the network termination unit comprises one of a digital video recorder or a cable modem.
43. (new) The network termination unit as claimed in claim 41, wherein the means for controlling comprises one of a processor or a microcontroller.
44. (new) The network termination unit as claimed in claim 41, wherein the means for controlling and the means for timing are provided by a central processing unit.
45. (new) The network termination unit as claimed in claim 41, wherein the means for providing alternative content comprises one of a memory located in the network termination unit or a connection to a remote server.
46. (new) The network termination unit as claimed in claim 41, the means for providing alternative content further for providing alternative content based upon one of user preferences, a predetermined selection, and the content being viewed as indicated by the indicators.
47. (new) A method of providing content to a user, comprising:
 - providing main content to a user through a viewing device;
 - inserting indicators in packets containing the content, wherein the indicators provide information about the content;
 - receiving a pause signal from the user;
 - starting a timer to time a pause interval;
 - accessing a source of alternative content based upon one of user preferences, predetermined selections and the main content; and

displaying the alternative content to the user, if the pause interval exceeds a predetermined length.

48. (new) The method as claimed in claim 47, wherein accessing the source of alternative content comprises accessing the source of alternative content based upon indicator in the packets of the main content.

49. (new) The method as claimed in claim 47, wherein accessing the source of alternative content further comprises accessing a local store of alternative content.

50. (new) The method as claimed in claim 47, wherein accessing the source of alternative content further comprises accessing a remote store of alternative content, wherein the remote store is located on the cable network.

51. (new) The method as claimed in claim 47, further comprising providing a user interface to the user and receiving a user preference for the source of alternative content.